

## **Minutes of the Public Works Committee - February 10, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. at the Airport Terminal Building by Chair Manke who led the committee with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Chair Richard Manke, County Board Supervisors James Behrend, Peter Gundrum, Karl Nilson, Rodell Singert, David Swan

**Staff Present:** County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legis.Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

**Also Present:** Public Works Engineering Services Mgr. Gary Evans, Senior Civil Engineer Karen Braun, Airport Manager Keith Markano, Clerk Typist III Val Ramos

### **Read Correspondence**

Esler addressed the following:

1. Letter from WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi to Senator Ted Kanavas and County Executive Dan Finley, regarding the I-94 North South Corridor as the next southeast freeway corridor to advance for reconstruction.
2. There will be a County Board meeting on February 22 at 9:00 a.m. as scheduled.
3. The Joint Public Hearing next Tuesday, February 15 is not a meeting of the County Board but a public hearing where the County Board may be present. There are two public hearings, one at 9:00 a.m. for consideration of amendments to the Waukesha County Development Plan and the second hearing is at the Exposition Center at 6:00 p.m. to consider the amendment request of Aurora Health Care.
4. Manke addressed a letter from City of Waukesha Director of Public Works Paul Feller to Director Bolte, regarding a request for Waukesha County to sign and mark a pedestrian crossing across River Road (CTH H) at the east side of Rivers Crossing Drive and the drive to West High School.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Singert said he would like the "Discussion of Facility/Land Use Plan for the Northview Property" agenda item for the next couple of meetings.

### **Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-117 Laying Out, Relocation and Improvement of County Trunk Highway "Q" – Project I.D. 02-2751(13)(A) – Colgate Road to S.T.H. 175 – Village of Menomonee Falls, Village of Germantown, Waukesha County – Washington Co.**

Evan and Braun explained the ordinance. Two handouts were distributed: a map of the area and the Permanent Limited Easement additions for the CTH Q relocation order #2.

**Motion:** Singert moved, second by Behrend, to approve Ordinance 159-O-117. Braun explained the two handouts. She stated that this relocation order was already passed in early spring. This is another one for the same process to add a few things. Sometimes when a project is in the design phase water becomes an issue. In this case several inlets need to be added which is what the tiny permanent easements are for. A larger permanent easement came up with Grace Church (#21) for a pond and drainage. Swan asked what maintaining the pond means. Evans said they will do ongoing maintenance of it. Braun said the pond usually has a fifteen-year life span for dredging which is the big issue. It is a sediment pond and they want the sediment to settle in it. Their engineers are estimating 10-15 years for having it dredged and evaluated. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

### **Approve Minutes of January 27, 2005**

**Motion:** Singert moved, second by Gundrum, to approve the minutes of 1/27/05. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

### **Report from Executive Committee Member for Meeting of 1/31/05**

Manke said the committee went over some airport items with Airport Manager Markano, reviewed the unannounced cash count report, considered two ordinances for UW-Extension grants, and interviewed three candidates for District #4 (Robert Hutton selected).

### **Report by Committee Member Attending Airport Commission Meeting of 2/9/05**

Markano gave an update of the last meeting. He stated there were several housekeeping items brought up under the Manager's Report. A request was received from Quad/Graphics to extend their lease, which expires in June 2005. They have two options for a five-year extension. Signage at the airport was discussed and will probably be re-agendized to discuss a standardized signage policy as to directional signs at the airport. He stated the biggest item is the release of the President's proposed budget last week, which calls for a reduction of airport improvement project funding of \$6 million. If that goes through along with the state's cut in DOT spending, projects will probably be severely cut back from the state. The bids were opened for the snow removal equipment, and there was a protest from one of the bidders which he went on to explain.

### **Discussion of Facility/Land Use Plan for the Northview Property**

Esler said this was agendized at Singert's request. Esler said there is an adopted master plan for the county grounds, which is on the wall in the county board and committee rooms. That master plan has been amended two times so if there is a reason to draft an ordinance to amend the plan that is what needs to be done. If there is something specific that requires an amendment to the master plan then that should be an item of discussion. Singert displayed a map of the area.

Singert said we as a committee need to discuss this over a period of time. We should also address the green space plan and suggest changes to bring it up to date to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, look at the allocation of land in this area, and make some recommendations to the Executive Committee on reallocation for the Airport, Northview, Expo, etc. He doesn't agree with a piecemeal type of development. We should be looking at extending Airport Drive with proper engineering and using the land for the best use. In the case of the airport, there should be revenue producing supportive businesses. We should also look at the 20 year Airport Improvement Plan and other entities within our government and then make some recommendations. We also need to improve the safety areas at either end of the runway.

Markano said the Environment Assessment is ongoing, and the County Executive officially requested a continuance of the waivers from the FAA in Minneapolis. The FAA at this point has not responded.

Manke asked have you talked to the County Executive? Singert said no. Manke asked where do you want to go with this? It was brought up at the Executive Committee, and there was no action. There are not enough people ready to support it. This is a land use issue more than for Public Works. Singert said we need to plan ahead and not let it just go along. Manke asked who do you want to do the planning? Singert said he wants this committee to make a recommendation first and possibly Gary Evans would have opinion. This land needs to be developed, and there needs to be a connection. We also have to involve the City of Waukesha. Someone needs to take the initiative, and it could come from this committee.

Behrend said there could be 3 or 4 right answers to this issue, but he shares Singert's observations. It makes sense to get the road finished and to have some ideas as to what will happen with all of the

land, but he doesn't think we should pursue it now. When a serious proposal from someone comes forward that might be the time. Something will come up that is controversial and will drive the discussion on the ultimate use.

Nilson doesn't think it is the purview of this committee to come up with a vision, but thinks it is a good idea. Maybe Singert should come up with a proposal. Nilson doesn't have any ideas for this property but would entertain anyone else's good ideas. Manke said the plan is in the County Board office. Nothing is going to happen until two or more supervisors come up with something.

Singert said there is a 20 year plan for the airport, and there also should be an updated greenway plan. He strongly suggests getting involved to make some recommendations and to ask for some department time. He sees a justifiable need and wants the committee to put some work into it.

Gundrum asked Markano if he has seen a lot of development around the smaller airports. Markano said it really depends on where the airport is located and the metropolitan area involved.

Singert said a committee should be reconstituted to suggest the appropriate use for the rest of this property according to the uses that are out there – Expo, Northview, and Highway Operations. The advantage to this airport is location, location, location and because it is adjacent to a freeway that has commercial development, who says there isn't interest for other businesses to come in. The Airport needs to grow. The activity level is very high, it should be user friendly, and it should sustain itself. In the last 12 years the levy has gone from over \$400,000 to \$200,000, and that progress should continue if the demand is there.

Esler stated under the existing plan there was concept engineering of the alignment for the continuation of Airport Road. When a proposer comes along for an airport use to reach the property west of the airport, then the road will be extended and probably at the proposer's expense. Ultimately, when it gets resurveyed by the Corps of Engineers, they'll identify more wetlands than the previous wetlands mapping. There are growing wetlands because of the lack of a water management plan and that is an issue. If anything, you want to retain what you've got as a value. Necessity is the mother of invention. When someone comes along with a proposal, the land will be used.

Singert asked if he can ask for some time with the Public Works Department to do a draft of the extension of Airport Drive. Manke asked when do you want this to happen? Are you looking at next year or do you want it in the five year plan or twenty year plan? Singert said by discussing it we're generating ideas, and he thinks it would be appropriate during the budget cycle.

Esler said there were pre-engineering reports with the cost estimates of the road continuation and they're in his office. The report was done back in '92 or '93. Manke said you (Singert) can talk to Director Bolte at any time so you don't need committee approval. Swan said he thinks there is consensus that putting the road through is a good idea, but there isn't any consensus on when or who's going to pay for it or what drives it. Nilson said if Singert comes up with a vision, he should share it with the committee.

**Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-018 Dispose of Building at 1120 Northview Road**  
*(Tabled at meeting of 5/27/04; Re-tabled at meeting of 1/13/05)*

Manke said he has no further information. He tried to get in touch with HHS Director Schuler a

couple of times. Manke said there isn't anything pressing to do something with the building now. He has heard that the federal government community development block grant might be cut severely so this might be the last time funds are available.

**Report by County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler on His Attendance at the Winter Highway Conference on January 25-26, 2005**

Esler said he attended the conference in Wisconsin Dells. He talked to a lot of people about TABOR and a tax freeze. Unlike the WCA Conference, there aren't any individual sessions at this one. Everyone attends all the sessions. There were presentations on the ethanol bill, risk management, and on advances with technology for sensors on trucks for pavement temperatures, salt applications, readability of roadways, etc. One of the last sessions was by Phil Scherer of Ayres Associates on "Why Fix Roads."

**Discuss River Rail Transit Project Funding for 2006 and Future Years**

Manke said this was agendaized because of an email that Lee Esler received from Budget Manager Keith Swartz as to future funding. Nilson said it's about \$27,000 per year. Behrend said in the long range plan beyond the time table maybe we should consider whether we remain in it. Maybe the tracks should be sold back to the private sector. Nilson said the railway belongs to the state and the actual rails and ties belong to the commission. We should ask the rail commission how much they're going to ask for in 2006. This is such a small amount of money. Nilson said we should stay in it.

Esler said there was the budget amendment in August of 2004 by ordinance which deleted that it was contingent on the other 14 counties. One item was to identify the money for 2004 for \$26,000 but it came in less than that. There never was any explicit authorization to use our balance to make the 2005 payment, but when we adopted the budget for non-departmental, there was a footnote saying the expenditure of this money in 2004 represented a plan commitment to fund River Rail for the next ten years with additional tax levy. Esler said he needs the invoice for 2004 and the current balance after the reduction of the 2005 payment so he can send a memo back to Swartz.

**Meeting Approvals**

**Motion:** Behrend moved, second by Gundrum, to approve committee attendance to the public meeting on February 22, 2005 at Richmond Elementary School regarding the reconstruction project from Swan Road to Prospect Court in Pewaukee. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

**Tour Airport Terminal Building and Grounds**

Markano took the committee on a tour of the terminal. Due to the chilly weather, there wasn't a tour of the grounds.

**Motion to adjourn:** Gundrum moved, second by Nilson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodell L. Singert  
Secretary

/sm